

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /068 W

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P R 051510Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6726

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, SW, DA

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - POSSIBLE SWEDISH REJECTION OF OTC APPLICATION
IN BEHALF OF INCENTIVE TRAVEL DEVELOPERS, INC.

1. SWEDISH CAB HAS INDICATED IN RESPONSE TO EMBASSY'S INFORMAL INQUIRY THAT MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT IS LIKELY TO TURN DOWN APPLICATION BY TRANS INTERNATIONAL AIRLINES, CARRIER FOR INCENTIVE TRAVEL DEVELOPERS (ITD), TO LAND IN STOCKHOLM IN MAY AND JUNE EIGHT ONE-STOP INCLUSIVE-TOUR CHARTERS (OTC) BEING ARRANGED FOR EMPLOYEES OF 3M COMPANY. ROLF PETERSSON, CHIEF, TRANSPORT AND PLANNING SECTION, CAB, FRANKLY ADMITTED THAT SCANDINAVIAN TRANSPORT MINISTERS HAVE LENT THEIR EARS TO SAS ARGUMENT THAT ENTRY OF ANY KIND OF CHARTER WOULD COST SAS BUSINESS. AS LONG AGO AS 1964 SCANDINAVIAN MINISTERS INSTRUCTED THEIR RESPECTIVE CAB'S TO TAKE VERY RESTRICTIVE POSITION WHEN DEALING WITH ITC APPLICATIONS, AND SWEDEN CONSIDERS OTC MERELY VARIATION OF ITC. IN 1969 SWEDISH AVIATION ACT WAS AMENDED TO PROVIDE THAT TRANSPORT MINISTER RATHER THAN CAB CONSIDER ALL APPLICATIONS FOR ITC FLIGHTS. PETERSSON SAID NO "TECHNICAL GROUNDS" WERE OFFERED

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AS BASIS FOR THESE REQUIREMENTS. POLICY DECISION

ON THIS APPLICATION WILL BE MADE IN CABINET MEETING, POSSIBLY AS EARLY AS FEBRUARY 12 ON BASIS OF RECOMMENDATION FROM TRANSPORT MINISTER. SAS AND CAB HAVE ALREADY PRESENTED THEIR NEGATIVE VIEWS TO MINISTER.

2. ACTION REQUESTED:

(A) PETERSSON KNEW OF NO ECONOMIC ANALYSIS DONE TO SUPPORT SAS AGRUMENT, AGREED THAT POSSIBLE LOSS OF TOURIST TRAFFIC FROM DENIAL OF OT AND OTHER CHARTERS COULD RESULT IN LOSS TO OTHER SECTORS OF ECONOMY, AND WAS WILLING TO ACCEPT ANY ESTIMATE WE COULD PROVIDE OF ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO SWEDEN OF APPROXIMATING 3M GROUPS. EMBASSY HAS OBTAINED FROM SHERATON-STOCKHOLM HOTEL, WHICH BROUGHT PROBLEM TO OUR ATTENTION, ESTIMATE OF ITS EARNINGS FROM THE 2,000 TOURISTS COVERED IN APPLICATION. IN ADDITION, EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT DEPARTMENT OBTAIN FROM L.A. ONKEN, LTD, 2564 BRANCH STREET, MIDDLETON, WISCONSIN (PHONE 608/836-1525) FIRM INFORMATION ON 24 ADDITIONAL FLIGHTS TO SCANDINAVIA MENTIONED IN HIS LETTER TO SHERATON. WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW NUMBER OF TOURISTS INVOLVED, AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY, AVERAGE AMOUNT LIKELY TO BE SPENT PER PERSON IN SWEDEN AND DENMARK BROKEN DOWN FOR HOTELS, MEALS, SIDE TRAVEL, SOUVENIRS, ETC. EMBASSY WISHES TO MAKE DATA AVAILABLE ASAP TO SWEDISH CAB AND TRANSPORT MINISTRY.

(B) EMBASSY HAS HEARD FROM LOCAL UNITED AIRLINES REPRESENTATIVE THAT US CAB HAS SOMETIMES TREATED SAS LIBERALLY WITH REGARD TO ITS CHARTER FLIGHTS. IF DEPARTMENT BELIEVES THAT REFERENCE TO US COOPERATION MIGHT BE USEFUL IN OUR DEALINGS WITH TRANSPORT MINISTER, EMBASSY WOULD BE GLAD FOR SOME DETAILS.
STRAUSZ HUPE

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